ACT APPROVED MARCH 3rd 1863.
FRACTIONAL CURRENCY COLLECTORS BOARD

Fall 2013

The Fractional Currency Market

How is the Fractional Currency market doing these days you might ask? Being a coin and currency dealer and having just done two shows I can answer that. I would say things are picking up! The "Silver Dollar Show" here in St. Louis was a very good show for fractional currency. I had a few dealers that never bought fractionals from me before buying AU or better notes. They said that some of their customers are buying fractional currency now because they feel they are a better value for the money than the large size notes. Also, that fractional currency was undervalued compared to their rarity! The dealers bought mostly first issue perforated notes and also Lincoln and Staton notes. Collectors were looking for Justice notes also first issue perforated.

As I write this, I just completed the one day show at Springfield, IL. It was certainly the best one day show ever. They hold it three times a year. This time it drew 450 people! There were three new fractional collectors at this show too! I told them if they buy an AU or better notes, I would give them my new book free. They all purchased nice AU or better notes, got free copies of my book. I also promoted FCCB to them along with giving them applications to join.

There were two other fractional collectors at the show as well, and they were also buying! The Springfield club also sells books at the show, and they sold 2 copies of my fractional book! So to come across 5 fractional collectors that all purchased notes at a small, one-day show as well as selling books to other attendees says something about the growing interest in fractional currency.

We have several members that have been actively promoting FCCB. They've been speaking at club meetings and putting on exhibits at local shows or simply placing copies of our newsletter and application forms at shows for attendees. We've established a 'Young Numismatist' membership for youth under 18 and are willing to offer a free YN membership. If you have plans to attend an upcoming local show or club meeting, let us know and we'll get you some newsletters and application forms. If you have the opportunity to do a presentation, several club members have PowerPoint presentations they can provide. Just let us know what you need or would like and we'll try to help.

I want to remind our members that are not Life Members that it's time for our annual dues. Enclosed is a self-addressed envelope to our Treasurer, David Treter, for you to send $15 for your 2014 membership fee. You might consider taking this opportunity to instead send $200 for a Life Time membership so you won't have to do this again! The mailing label on the outer newsletter envelope indicates the year your current membership expires. If you label says 2013, you need to send David your 2014 dues.

Thanks for your support and enjoy your notes!

Rob

Rob Kravitz

FCCB Newsletter
c/o Jerry Fochtman
2818 Mountain Green Trail
Kingwood, TX 77345
(281) 361-8948
jerry@fochtman.us

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

SEPTEMBER 2013 LONG BEACH SHOW

By

Rick Melamed

The September Long Beach, CA has come on gone. It's been a few months since my last show and I was quite anxious to hit the bourse floor. I got to the convention center 30 minutes early and scoped the attendees waiting to get into the show. There was a good number of people in line, all anxious as I was to get to the floor.

10:00 AM opening bell sounded and we are off to the floor. Long Beach is the largest show on the west coast and the September show is the first after the summer doldrums. There seemed to be a lot of fresh material and quite a few dealers carrying fractionals. The Heritage booth…the first booth in the entranceway…was alive with activity. Coin and currency auctions were scheduled and Heritage looked like they were on a mission. They had a Watermelon and Grand Watermelon note on display…earmarked for the January 2014 FUN show (1891 - $100 and $1000 Treasury note). The Grand Watermelon figures to hammer at $2.5 million. Anyway, I digress. This is a fractional publication.

I was able to find a really sharp Fr.1242 counterfeit that was in Choice CU at Carl Bombara's table. Old friend Scott Lindquist sold me a really nice Fr.1256 with a partial dark offset in the bottom right corner. Nice note – offsets like these are rare. One dealer had a bunch of worn, pedestrian fractionals. Towards the middle of the pack were a half dozen choice CU 3rd issue specimen notes (mostly narrow margin). They were out of context with the worn material and asked how he got them. "From my Dad - it was part of his collection." I bought 5 of them on the spot since they were priced very reasonably.

Alas, no plate number notes for my own collection. But it was really great to get onto the floor and spend some of my hard earned money.

Heritage had a decent amount of fractionals at the auction. No spectacular rarities, but some nice type notes. Not many bargains and gem notes continue to do very well. Here are some of the highlights:

- Fr. 1279 graded PCGS-68 sold for an outstanding price of $5,287.50.
- A Fr. 1312 with a wide selvage on the left (with sheet plate 27) graded PMG-66 sold for $1,057.50.
- An AU 55 sheet of Fr. 1226 hammered for $1,762.50.
- A pair of Fr. 1252 in 66 holders sold for $1,057.50 and $1,527.50 respectively.
- A Fr. 1254 in PMG-66 sold for $1,645.00.
- A Fr. 1292 in PCGS-66 fetched $1,292.50.
- A rare Fr. 1339 NM Type 2 reverse specimen (less than a dozen known) graded PMG-65 brought $5,875.00.
- A Fr. 1342 in PMG-66 sold for $1,527.50.
- The relative common Fr. 1343 graded PCGS-66 sold for $1,762.50.
- A Fr. 1358 graded PMG-65 sold for an outstanding $1,527.50. The note looks better than the grade – the buyer undoubtedly will break it out and resubmit it for a higher grade.
- A Fr. 1259 and Fr. 1261 both grading '67' sold for $1,762.50 each.
- A Tete-Beche (Milton 5E10R.2a 10¢ Fifth Issue Uncut Horizontal Back Specimen Pair PMG Gem Uncirculated 65) sold for $2,820.00. One of 7 known.
- A decent gray shield sold for $7,637.50

All in all a good Long Beach show. Glad to see fractionals remain vibrant.

HERITAGE®
CURRENCY AUCTIONS

Fractional Currency for every collector.
Visit us at HA.com/Currency



Fr. 1268 15¢ Fourth Issue
PMG Choice Uncirculated 63 EPQ.
Realized $1,527



Fr. 1313 50¢ First Issue
PMG Gem Uncirculated 65 EPQ.
Realized $2,350



Fr. 1310a 50¢ First Issue
PCGS Very Choice New 64PPQ.
Realized $4,112





Fr. 1281 25¢ First Issue Full Sheet of Sixteen
PMG Superb Gem Unc 67 EPQ.
Realized $7,050

Fr. 1383 Fractional Currency Shield,
With Pink Background.
Realized $22,325

To consign to an upcoming auction call a Consignment Director 800-USCOINS (872-6467) Ext 1001

Free catalog and *The Collector's Handbook* ($65 value) for new clients. Please submit auction invoices of $1000+ in this category, from any source. Include your contact information and mail to Heritage, fax 214-409-1425, email CatalogOrders@HA.com, or call 866-835-3243. For more details, go to HA.com/FCO.

Annual Sales Exceed $800 Million I 800,000+ Online Bidder-Members

3500 Maple Ave. I Dallas, TX 75219 I 800-USCOINS (872-6467) I HA.com

DALLAS I NEW YORK I BEVERLY HILLS I SAN FRANCISCO I HOUSTON I PARIS I GENEVA

THE WORLD'S LARGEST NUMISMATIC AUCTIONEER

HERITAGE AUCTIONS HA.com

HA.com/FBCoins HA.com/Twitter

TX & NY Auctioneer license: Samuel Foose 11727 & 0952360. Heritage Auction Galleries CA Bond #RSB2004175; CA Auctioneer Bond: Carolyn Mani #RSB2005661. Buyer's Premium 17.5%. See HA.com for details. HERITAGE Reg. U.S. Pat & TM Off.

Friedberg's "Paper Money of the United States" Numbering Anomalies

By

Rick Melamed

(Editor's Note: This is the sixth installment in a multi-part series whereby the author explores a number of postage/currency items that were added, removed and corrected over time in this important widely used reference book by currency enthusiasts.)

B. Other Misattributed Fractionals by Friedberg *(continued)*

1. Fr. 1304 - 4th issue 25¢. Large Brownish Seal; plain paper.

Listed: 1st – 2nd editions
Delisted: 3rd – 19th editions

Milt cites an example (Milt # 4R25.5) with the following special notes:

*1955 ANA Sale, lot 818, price realized $50.00. Stack's auction of Limpert Sale Collection, 9/21/55, lot 533: "fourth issue 25¢, Washington with chocolate or brownish Treasury seal, plain paper, strictly uncirculated. In (Robert) Friedberg's book listed as **1304** and very rare. Originally from Westheimer collection." 11/16/73 American Auction Assn. Sale of Rothert Collection, Lot1456: "25¢ large rich purple brown seal (considered by Mr. Crofoot to be this variety. The colors of the seals vary somewhat). Very rare, new, well centered, Colors Bright." Price realized $320.00, 11/2/1973 Kagin sale, lot 754, $90.00*

2. Fr. 1305 - 4th issue 25¢. Large Brownish Seal; paper with violet fibers and blue end.

Listed: 1st – 9th editions
Delisted: 10th – 19th editions

This is most likely an Fr. 1303 with the seal a victim of ink color variations as explained by our Editor previously.

3. Fr. 1306 - 4th issue 25¢. Smaller red seal; plain white paper.

Listed: 1st – 2nd editions
Delisted: 3rd – 19th editions

This one is a bit of a mystery. There are no regular issue 25¢ notes printed on plain paper. They are printed with either pink fibers or violet fibers with blue ends. Milt Friedberg does cite a proof version (Milt 4P25F.1) that is printed on white india paper. Perhaps this is a result of a worn note or bleached paper.

4. Fr. 1309a - 5th issue 25¢. With short key in Treasury seal (4 millimeters).

Listed as: *"With paper on obverse a bright pink color"* in 1st – 7th editions
Listed as: *"With paper on obverse tinted pink"* in 8th – 9th editions
Delisted: 10th – 19th editions

Pink paper on the Walker note was the result of bleeding ink from the seal (or more likely dyed) and is not a legitimate variety.

5. Fr. 1266a - 5th issue 10¢. Red seal with short key with paper on obverse a bright pink color.

Unlisted: 2nd edition
Listed as: *"Same (Fr. 1266) with paper on obverse a bright pink color"* in 1st, 3rd – 7th editions
Listed as: *"Same (Fr. 1266) with paper on obverse a pink color"* in 8th – 10th editions
Listed as: *"The note previously listed does not exist*" in the 11th edition
Delisted: 12th – 19th editions

Friedberg listed the Fr. 1266a in the 1st edition, then unlisted it in the 2nd edition; and subsequently relisted it again starting with the 3rd edition. Pink paper on the Meredith note was the result of bleeding ink (or perhaps dyed) from the seal and is not a variety

6. Fr. 1268 - 4th issue 15¢.

Listed as: "Large red seal; paper with pink fibers" in 1st – 7th editions
Listed as: "Large red seal; unwatermarked paper with pink fibers" in 8th – 19th editions

In the 1st – 7th editions, Friedberg describes this as *"Large red seal; paper with pink fibers."* This description does not completely describe the Fr. 1268 we know today. The most important determining factor (first described in the 8th edition) is that the Fr. 1268 is printed on un-watermarked paper. This is an important distinction since Choice CU examples are worth 5 times or more as a watermarked example.

7. Fr. 1268a – 4th issue 15¢. "Same (Fr. 1268) with paper on obverse a bright pink color"

Unlisted: 1st – 2nd editions
Listed as: *"Same (Fr. 1268) with paper on obverse a bright pink color"* in 3rd – 5th editions
Delisted: 6th – 19th editions

This was the result of bleeding ink (or perhaps dyed) from the seal and is not a variety

8. Fr. 1270. 4th issue 15¢ Large Brownish Seal.

Listed as: *"Large Brownish Seal"* in the 1st – 10th editions
Listed as: *"The note previously listed does not exist*" in the 11th – 19th editions
Like the Fr. 1260 mentioned above, this variety has all to do with the ink color variations and does not merit its own Fr#.

9. **Fr. 1293. 3th issue 25¢ Fessenden. Red reverse with large design letter "a" on obverse.**

 Listed as: *"Red reverse with large design letter "a" on obverse"*
 in the 1st - 11th editions
 Delisted: 12th – 13th editions
 Listed as: *"The note listed in prior editions not exist*" in the 14th – 19th editions

 As opposed to the Fr. 1292 which is described as the same note but with the small 'a". Milt # 3R25.1d. Milt Friedberg describes this note as unknown. Shown below is a comparison of three Fessenden's with the obverse "a" (From Fr. 1295 – not Fr. 1292, but it is the same face plate). The first 2 examples (from left to right) are the small "a" variety. Please note the different font style. The 3rd example is the large "a" variety that was designated as the Fr. 1293. The general opinion is that these are very minor inconsistencies and although their different styles are worth noting, they prove to be too subtle to warrant their own Friedberg number. One other thought on the subject…The "a" is a sheet plate designator for location and not intended as part of the Fessenden design. It is very possible that the "a" was not engraved by the same person who did the actual Fessenden plate design.



FR1293 – Small "a" vs. Large "a"

Fr. 1296 – 3rd issue 25¢ with Fessenden portrait.

Listed as: "*Green Reverse with large design letter "a" on obverse",* in 1st – 11th editions
Listed as: "*Green Reverse with large design letter "a" on obverse, 7 mm. to the lower right of the normal location"* in 12th – 19th editions

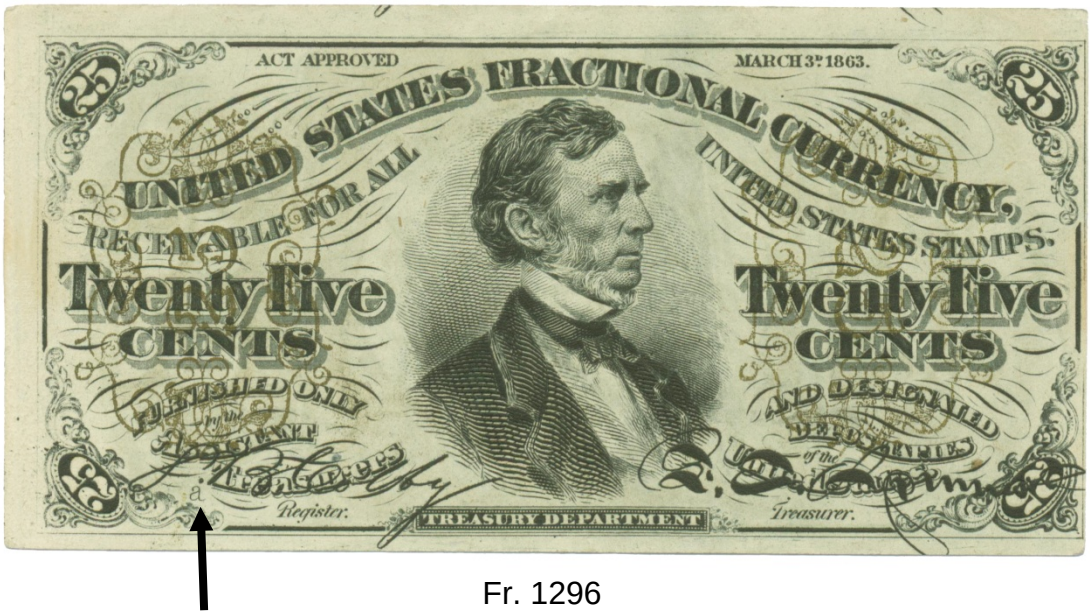
In the first 11 editions, the only distinction Friedberg made between the Fr. 1295 and the Fr. 1296 was the size of "a" on obverse (small vs. large). One of the most important distinctions between the two Fessenden examples is the position of the letter 'a". The size of the font matters; but its different location is what gives the Fr. 1296 such gravitas. This is not lost on collectors where a PMG67 example sold in the January 2010 Heritage FUN Auction for $11,500. This is ~10x more than the Fr. 1295 is worth.

Listed below is an excellent lot description from that sale:

Lot 13647. Fr. 1296 25¢ Third Issue PMG Superb Gem Unc 67 EPQ. *This is the rare variety with the extremely large "a" 7mm to the lower right of its normal position. This unusual size and placement occurred only on plate #144, which was one of 90 plates used for this issue. This information was originally published in Paper Money magazine volume XI number 2 page 80 in 1972. At the time of the publication of the Encyclopedia, only three pieces were known. That census has grown considerably in the intervening years, and the current count is about a dozen pieces. This one is a beauty, with deep, original embossing and unusually large margins. To date, PMG has graded only three uncirculated examples: two 63 EPQ's and this lone Superb Gem 67 EPQ. This piece, which is currently four points in the lead, will very likely remain alone at the head of the census far into the future.*



Fr. 1295



Fr. 1296

…To Be Continued In Our Next Issue…

JAMES POLIS IS BUYING AND SELLING FRACTIONAL CURRENCY

I am one of the strongest buyers in this field. Take a look at any major auction or show at who is buying fractionals in all grades and you will usually hear my name or see my face. Please send me your notes for a fair and expedient offer. I am passionately looking for all scarcer varieties as well as Choice-Gem Uncirculated Type Notes for my customers.

First Issue Perforated Notes
Gem Second Issue Notes with clear surcharges
Attractive and broadly margined Spinner notes
All Justice varieties
High grade Washington, Lincoln and Stanton Notes
ALL WIDE AND NARROW MARGIN SPECIMENS
ALL GRANT – SHERMAN SPECIMENS

WHY WOULD YOU WISH TO DEAL WITH ME?

PROFESSIONALISM

It is my promise to you, the customer, that you will always be treated with the most ardent professionalism regarding all matters.

AFFILIATION

I am a member of the Professional Currency Dealers Association, Society of Paper Money Collectors, Fractional Currency Collectors Board, and American Numismatic Association.

CONSERVATIVE GRADING

I am one of the most conservative graders in the hobby (ask anyone who has *ever* dealt with me).

AUCTION REPRESENTATION

Very competitive rates offered – I am at every major paper money auction

MAJOR ADVERTISER

Check out my full-page ad on *page 17* in every issue of the Bank Note Reporter.

WANT LISTS SERVICED

I attend many of the major shows and auctions to satisfy my customer's collecting needs.

The following is a small sampling of some prize notes that I have placed into customer's collections:

***Marchioni* Fr. 1248 Choice CU**
Fr. 1299 Very Choice CU
***Gengerke* Fr. 1330 Gem CU**
Fr. 1336 Choice CU
***O'Mara* Fr. 1339 NM Specimen Reverse AU**
Fr. 1340 Superb Gem CU
Fr. 1348 Choice CU
Fr. 1368 Gem CU
***O'Mara* Fr. 1371 Choice AU**

James Polis

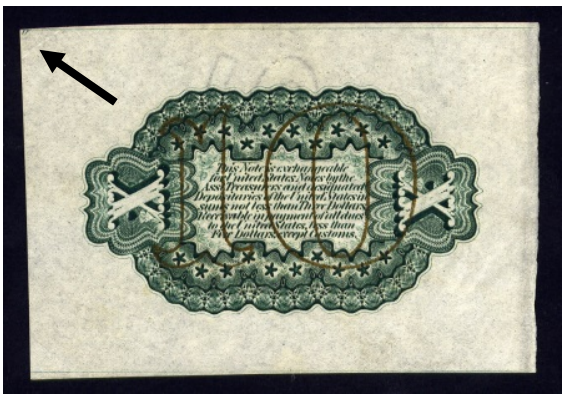
4501 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 306
Washington, D.C. 20008
(202) 363 – 6650
Jpolis7935@aol.com

Seal Plate #11 and #111 on 3rd issue 10¢ Fractionals

By
Rick Melamed

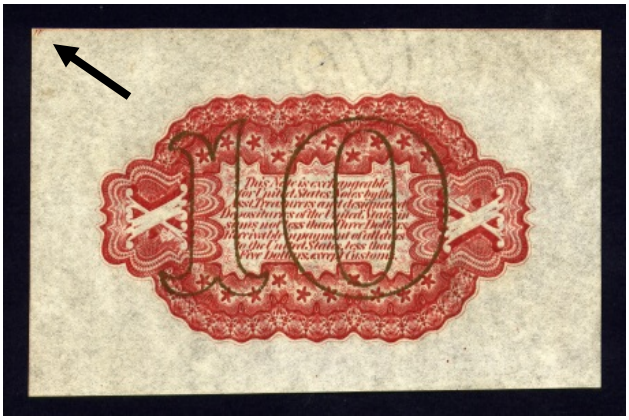
With a little bit of dexterity using PowerPoint and MS Paint we can make a reasonable (but certainly not a definitive) case that the same engraver etched 2 different sheet plate numbers on 2 different plates. No big deal…right? But how do you prove it? The devil is in the details. And trite saying #2: a picture is worth a thousand words.

Recently I purchased an Fr.1255 with sheet plate #111 on the face from eBay. It's a decent VF note. It seems apparent that the person who cut the note from the sheet wanted to capture the entire plate number. It came at the expense of the top and left margin. But there are plenty of decently margined examples of this common Fr #. The eye appeal on this note is the ornate #111 on the face, in the bottom right corner.



As an aside, it is a little unusual that it came from France. The seller, a large French based numismatic company, had several fractionals for sale on eBay. Logic dictates that the best place to sell an American treasure is back to the country whence it came. Welcome home old friend…I wonder how long you were in France?

I recognized the style of the #111; the design looked familiar. I own a pair of 3rd issue 10¢ red and green wide margin reverse proofs with the exact same inverted plate #11 on the back (Fr.1251-Rev-WM and Fr.1255-Rev-WM). When I received the note from France and gave it a closer examination, it was apparent that the design of the font on the 11 and the 111 were similar; each with the long flowing stem from the top sloping down and to the left at an ~ 45 degree angle.



On the scan I blew up both plate numbers. I reversed the inverted plate #11 from my Fr.1251 WM proof (from upside down to right-side up) and placed them next to each other for comparison. Note the consistent design on all the characters. The plate numbers match up with the BEP charts of 3rd issues plate numbers.

Both were the same 3rd issue 10¢ series, but one being from the reverse of a proof and the other from the face of a regular issue Fr.1255 add a little dimension. While one cannot say definitively, it certainly is not a far stretch to postulate that the same engraver etched both the #11 and #111 due to the close similarity in design. Fun stuff for sure, enjoy!



(Current Membership List Information Removed)

Member's Trading Post

Looking for Graphics of Satirical Notes and other Rare Fractional Items for Historical Digital Collection Effort. Jerry Fochtman jerry@fochtman.us	Researcher/Collector interested in ALL fractionals with inverted or mirrored plate numbers. If you have one (for sale or research) please e-mail riconio@yahoo.com or call 818/591-2326. Thanks – Rick Melamed.	Want lists serviced and auction representation with over 40 years of Fractional experience Mike Marchioni Marchion@ETSU.EDU 423/439-5362
	Wanted: Fr.1374 (Lincoln) Counterfeits notes, scans, clippings, info, etc. Fred Reed (FCCB #55) Freed3@airmail.net P.O.B 118162 Carrollton, TX 75011	

Current FCCB Members are welcome to submit requests for the Trading Post!

An Appeal

From Membership Chair

Bill Brandimore

So far this fiscal year (post Memphis for me) we have signed up 13 new members! This includes 3 Junior and 2 Life members. We had good results from the ANA Summer Seminar where all 3 Juniors came from and 4 new members from an ad I ran in the Paper Money collectors of Michigan magazine. There are only a few over 200 members in the Michigan club so we signed up 2% of their membership. Will you put an ad in your club publication's. We are a National club, but you find members in State clubs. Our membership had gotten a bit sickly, as we only signed up 5 new members in all of 2012-13. So, let's keep the ball rolling. Please help spread the word.

If you would like an issue of the newsletter with an application for to pass-out at club meetings or numismatic events, contact our newsletter editor, Jerry Fochtman. Thank you for helping promote our club!

Buying & Selling



U.S. Fractional Currency



Call or Write

Rob's Coins & Currency

P.O. Box 6099
Chesterfield, MO 63006
314/878-3564
Robert J. Kravitz,
SPMC LM 294 ● ANA LM 5361

Civil War Stamp Envelopes: Their Issuers and Their Times

Author—Fred Reed III

Book Review by

Benny Bolin

Fred Reed has hit another homerun with his new book on Civil War Stamp Envelopes. The topic is one that has a limited collector base due to the relatively small number that still exist today (128 merchants issued 514 different varieties). But Fred has once again, as with his Encased Postage Stamp (EPS) and Lincoln books, gone above the normal item catalog and has completed a historical masterpiece. As a collector and researcher, I have been concerned that we are losing the history of the notes and other items as the hobby is seemingly becoming more focused on the financial aspect. But what Fred does, in my opinion, better than any other author today, is instill that historical aspect into his books. He did that well in the EPS and the Lincoln books but has surpassed himself with this book. His in-depth research has resulted into a lot of previously unknown and unpublished history of the merchant/printer of each envelope. By reading his book, you almost get the feeling of knowing these people from our past. Before Fred's book, the only reference available was a piece by Milt Friedberg that only had black & white pictures and due to some collectors refusal to share information, it was an incomplete list.

The book begins with a foreword by Art Paradis, the foremost collector of these envelopes who has now amassed the largest collection in existence today. He gives a nice history into his collection and his pursuit of new items. He makes a very poignant statement "*I want to know the range of what is available and background information about the companies and people associated with them. This book fulfills these needs and desires beyond all expectations."*

Reed then progresses into a very detailed introduction to the small change crisis of the time, the different types of medium that was used and how postage stamps came to be used and the envelopes used to protect them.

A timeline follows that is very detailed and starts with the first appearance of the envelopes on July 4, 1862 and then goes into other appearances, major sales and concludes with the release of the book in October, 2013.

And then he goes into a lengthy history of prior cataloging efforts and famous collections/collectors. Having known Milt Friedberg for years and considering him my mentor, I know he was frustrated with the information he was able to gather on this subject. I know he would be proud to be mentioned in the book and with Fred's efforts to detail the history of these little gems. This is one of the best parts of the book and is essentially a history of collecting postage stamp envelopes.

Fred then goes into the meat of the book, the discussion of the different merchants. He has gone to great lengths to detail with illustrations when possible of the different envelopes and provides a description, printer and other information. He begins each listing with a history of the envelope as to who has owned it, prices it has brought in past sales and todays location if known. Some will say the book needs to have valuations in it. I totally disagree as the value of these items are not static but are determined on a "day of sale" basis due to limited supply and demand. Fred does a nice job of including the pertinent sales information, especially the values the envelopes have achieved recently. Then Fred includes the historical information, from pictures of the merchants, the buildings, newspaper ads, etc. Fred even includes historical information on some envelopes that are known to have been printed but are not known location-wise today as well as those firmly ensconced in the Smithsonian Collection. After detailing these 128 merchants, Fred lists and shows pictures of a number of envelopes that have no merchant name on them and therefore cannot be researched.

Fred concludes the book with two good references. First is a synopsis of the envelopes by Reed number with Milton Number when known, the issuer name and their business or trade and ends with an extensive bibliography that will provide future historians much to review.

It was exciting to read Fred's latest book. It gives a new perspective to these envelopes and provides so much new information it is almost unfathomable. It was a pleasure to be able to contribute in a very small way to the book. If you are a collector of Postage Stamp Envelopes, fractional currency, encased postage or a history buff, I highly recommend this book to you.



The  ROCK  says

Let's Get Ready For Memphis!!!!

Yeah, I know. Corny as corny can be, but you now get the message. If you have not made plans to be at the 2014 Memphis, get ready now. It is a great place for all paper collectors to gather and have a great time. We also need fractional exhibits. I am not placing a fractional exhibit this year, so we need people to step up and take over! If you start now, and only spend an hour a week, you have over 30 hours to prepare your exhibit—more than enough time!

This Memphis will be a little different for the FCCB. Instead of having a poorly attended meeting on Saturday afternoon, we are going to try to do something different. We will have a meeting, but it will be a dinner meeting, most likely Friday evening. We will probably have it at the Old Spaghetti Warehouse and will have a short update on where we are (business meeting) and then do a show and tell. Bring your new items, your old items, your proud items. Who knows, we may close the place down.

More on all this later but begin planning now!!!

http://www.memphisipms.com

